

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

*Beginning on page 15, line 11 of Applicants' September 9, 2003 Specification:*

--Another possibility to enter the default-route-prefix  $P_d$  into the routing table cache  $L_1$  is to not wait until a data packet arrives, but to perform an upfront check on the routing table  $L_2$  in which the address space of the routing table  $L_2$  is analyzed for valid destination address prefixes, and uncovered prefixes are used for determining default-route-prefixes  $P_d$  therefor and creating an entry comprising the default-route-prefix  $P_d$  together with a default routing destination, in the routing table cache  $L_1$ . This is also referred to as prefetching method and it has the advantage of enabling faster data packet processing. It may even be combined with the data-packet triggered determination of the default-route-prefix  $P_d$ , in that only a part of the uncovered prefixes is subjected to the prefetching method and the rest is subject to the data-packet triggered determination. Prefetching provides to be more advantageous for the parts of the address space that can be covered by a short default-route-prefix  $P_d$ , since that prefix uses reduced table space. Having used the prefetching method, a default-route-prefix  $P_d$  already resides together with a default routing destination as an entry in the routing table cache  $L_1$ , at the time of arrival of the data packet and in the event that the default-route-prefix  $P_d$  matches with at least part of the destination address  $d$ , in the default forwarding step 5 the data packet is forwarded to the corresponding default routing destination.--